

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:779

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2007

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Reddy Shri Karunakara G.;Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of skilled and trained Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) to manage air traffic control in India;
- (b) if so, the details and the measures taken/proposed to be taken to recruit more Air Traffic Controllers;
- (c) whether ATCs have been found guilty of not following prescribed guidelines for communication, resulting in risk to air passengers security; and
- (d) if so, the details and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard to improve efficiency of ATCs in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

- (a) Yes, Sir. There is some shortage of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs).
- (b) As against the sanctioned strength of 1707, there are 1504 ATCOs. In addition, 167 and 156 ATCOs would be required for the new airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore which are scheduled to become operational in March next year. The shortage has risen due to sudden and unprecedented growth of air traffic in the recent years. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already recruited 383 ATCOs and is in the process of recruiting 148 more. According to the recruitment plan of AAI, the shortage of ATCOs would be overcome by the middle of 2009.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.